# News release

## Key to the Exeter door

19 December 2002

Met Office gets the key to the door

The Met Office begins moving into its new building in Exeter on Friday, ahead of schedule.

Alan Douglas, the Met Office's Relocation Director, will receive the keys to the first computer hall from Geoff Hunt, Costain Skanska Joint Venture's Project Manager at the site. The first telecoms equipment will be installed in the new year, and, by May 2003, the Met Office will be installing other equipment to enable delivery of services directly from Exeter, extending the dual working practices already taking place between Devon and our site in Bracknell.

The computer hall covers an area of 864 m2 and is the first of two halls that will house one of Europe's largest IT installations, including two supercomputers, hundreds of servers and the Met Office mass storage system, which is expected to hold a petabyte (one million gigabytes) of data.

In addition, by March 2004, a supercomputer made up of 30 NEC SX-6 nodes will be running at the new site. This will deliver approximately six times the combined power of the Met Office's two current Cray T3E computers. Weather forecasts will benefit from the extra power, which will mean increased accuracy and detail in the models run by the supercomputer. These models will, in turn, provide improved climate change predictions and forecasts of high-impact weather, building on data available from a new generation of satellites.

Alan Douglas said: "Accepting the keys to the computer hall marks a major milestone in the project, and is the symbolic start of the transfer of our operations from Bracknell to Exeter. We can now begin installing the communications and computers required to support our global weather forecasts."

More about our move to Exeter

**For further information:**
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

PRINTABLE VERSION

About
Met Office
Hadley Centre
Terms and conditions
Advertise on our site

News
News release archive
Media Centre

Learn
About the weather
From the bookshelf

Services
don't guess weathercall
Met Office forecasts by phone or fax...
Mobile text forecasts
Weathercall
Marinecall
Mountain weather
MetWEB
Talk to a forecaster

Links
Met Office data users
National met. services
Scientific interest sites
EA Floodline
Directgov
Freedom of Information

Contact
Contact us
Questions answered


© Crown copyright